

**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,  
provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application  
filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number	08/857,273
Filing Date	May 16, 1997
Confirmation Number	3991
First Named Inventor	Peter A. Ronzani
Group Art Unit	2674
Examiner Name	Wu, Xiao Min
Attorney Docket Number	0717.1083-008

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See *Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.*

**1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on ☐.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on ☐.
- iii. ☐ Other -- ☐.
- b. ☐ Please do not enter the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on ☐.
- c. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Petition for Extension of Time - ☐ 5 month(s) with copy
- v. ☐ Other -- ☐.

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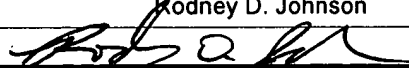
**2. Miscellaneous**

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of ☐ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other -- ☐.

**3. Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

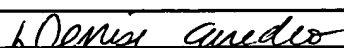
- a. ☒ A check is enclosed for the following fees in the total amount of \$2,816.00
- OR
- ☐ Authorization is granted to charge the following fees in the total amount of \$☐ to Deposit Account No. 08-0380. A copy of this document is enclosed for accounting purposes
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☒ Amendment Fee
- iv. ☐ Other -- ☐.
- b. ☒ Authorization is hereby granted to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 08-0380. A copy of this document is enclosed for accounting purposes.

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Rodney D. Johnson	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,558
Signature		Date	January 5, 2004

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:

Name (Print/Type)	Denise Caredeo
Signature	
Date	1-5-04